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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 18, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALKER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

As the Members return from their various districts and our Nation enters a week which ends with Memorial Day, may we all be mindful in the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self and, for so many, of life would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REGULATORY INTEGRITY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, and applaud its passage by the House of Representatives. This bill prohibits the EPA from using its Waters of the U.S. rule to expand its authority beyond, way beyond, congressional intent.

Waters of the U.S. is yet another executive overreach by this administration. The Clean Water Act intentionally limited the EPA's jurisdiction to navigable waters, yet Waters of the U.S. would expand Federal jurisdiction to include virtually all water flows—from ditches to prairie potholes—even on private land.

Nebraskans are concerned Waters of the U.S. could severely harm our ag economy by increasing costs and uncertainty for producers.

America's farmers and ranchers are already great stewards of the land and take numerous steps to protect our natural resources. By blocking the Waters of the U.S. rule, H.R. 1732 stops the administration's latest power grab and supports ag producers across the country.

CONGRATULATING THE HOUSTON ROCKETS AND HOUSTON ASTROS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take long for a Texan to brag about things that we do in Texas. But I wanted to take my 1 minute today to talk about what the Houston Rockets have done for the first time in 19 years to advance to the next level of the NBA playoffs, being a Rockets fan for as long as we have had them. I know all Houstonians and basketball fans were amazed that they came from three games behind to win.

Also, basketball is not the only thing. In fact, a couple blocks from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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where the Rockets play, the Houston Astros are playing. A few years ago, we had the worst team in baseball, but they have been leading their division and just swept another home stand.

So I want to congratulate the Houston Rockets for moving forward in the playoffs and also the Houston Astros because it is a long season. We need to keep it up. But they are bringing sports history into Houston again.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF SRI LANKA'S CIVIL WAR

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the sixth anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka. In a brutal war that lasted 37 years, we saw nearly 100,000 people killed—many of them civilians—as a result of the tensions between the country's Buddhist majority and Hindu minority.

Since the war ended, however, corruption and ongoing human rights abuses have prevented Sri Lanka from reaching a national reconciliation.

Then in January of this year, we saw President Sirisena democratically elected with significant support from the Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim communities.

Mr. Speaker, on this fortuitous occasion, I call on the new government to release the 200 detained political prisoners, account for the nearly 20,000 missing civilians from the war, and end oppressive restrictions on the Tamil provinces.

This sixth anniversary serves as a reminder of Sri Lanka's war-torn past and a chance to move it toward a future of democracy, justice, and equality for all its people because only then can Sri Lanka finally achieve the stability, peace, and prosperity that it deserves.

PROTECTING NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a rule that would significantly broaden the Federal Government's power to regulate waters and adjacent lands under the Clean Water Act.

The Waters of the United States rule would give the Federal Government jurisdiction over puddles, roadside ditches, irrigation ditches, and storm and wastewater systems. Federal agencies frequently place burdensome regulations on the American public, and this rule is no exception.

Fortunately, last week, the House passed H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, which would require the agencies to start over and develop a new rule in consultation with

State and local governments and other stakeholders. This commonsense legislation prevents an out-of-touch administration from threatening the livelihood of North Carolina's farmers and saddling local governments with exorbitant compliance costs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*The Speaker, The Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 15, 2015, at 3:33 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a copy of a notice filed earlier with the Federal Register continuing the emergency with Burma first declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-39)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared on May 20, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2015. The Government of Burma has made significant progress across a number of important areas, including the release of over 1,300 political prisoners, continued progress toward a nationwide cease-fire, the discharge of hundreds of child soldiers from the military, steps to improve labor standards, and expanding political space for civil society to have a greater voice in shaping issues critical to Burma's future. In addition, Burma

has become a signatory of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Additional Protocol and ratified the Biological Weapons Convention, significant steps towards supporting global nonproliferation. Despite these strides, the situation in the country continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Concerns persist regarding the ongoing conflict and human rights abuses in the country, particularly in ethnic minority areas and Rakhine State. In addition, Burma's military operates with little oversight from the civilian government and often acts with impunity. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma.

Despite this action, the United States remains committed to supporting and strengthening Burma's reform efforts and to continue working both with the Burmese government and people to ensure that the democratic transition is sustained and irreversible.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 15, 2015.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1605

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS) at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HOMELESS VETERANS' RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 474) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 474

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,